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A FREE PAPER FOR KIDS, BY KIDS

ISSUE #51 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015



The process of restorative justice begins with student mediation at this London elementary school in the United Kingdom.

**A**t the Brooklyn New School (P.S. 146), fifth grade **mediators** go outside during their recess time to find conflict caused by younger students. For example, if someone is crying, the mediators ask what's wrong. If a problem is found, the student mediators begin the process of resolving it with a set of rules so everyone respects each other. Once the rules are explained, mediators ask each student to share their side of the story and to consider what they could do next time to make sure it doesn't happen again. This form of resolving conflict at school is called restorative justice.

Restorative justice shifts the way that a school community treats and views student behavioral issues. Hilary Lustick, PhD candidate in higher education at New York University, says, "Usually we think of a student who misbehaves as being the 'harmer,' but often he or she may have been harmed or affected in ways that need healing. Restorative justice allows those needs to surface so kids can feel a part of their school community even when they make mistakes."

These practices involve creating an environment that builds a sense of community to stop conflicts from occurring. When students misbehave, their peers, teachers, parents and the school administrators address it as a community rather than punishing students through detention, suspension or expulsion under strict **zero-tolerance** policies. They help students to find out what they are doing wrong, why, how it affects others and how they can fix it.

Yolanda Holland, the trainer of peer mediators at P.S. 146, believes that zero-tolerance "suggests that a problem can never get better and that people should be thrown away" when they make a mistake. Not only this, but getting suspended usually leads to falling behind in class. Instead of

restoring healing and growth, suspension often ends with frustrated feelings and repeated misbehavior.

Getting behind in school can contribute



Restorative justice is all about learning to understand each other by working together to explore problems at their roots.

to the "school-to-prison pipeline," which pushes low-income students and children of color from school into the criminal justice system. A 2013 study by the University of California found that suspension of ninth graders doubled their chance of dropping out. In 2009, Northeastern University reported that high school dropouts were 63 percent more likely to be incarcerated than college graduates. Since a 2014 Department of Education study found that black students are suspended three times more often than their white peers, this issue also unequally affects students of color.

Still, restorative practices do not replace suspension altogether. Madhani says that "they are a way of hopefully reducing how often suspensions need to happen, because they give students other ways of repairing the harm they have caused by being disruptive in class, fighting, etc."

The results of using this approach have been good at the Expeditionary Learning School for Community Leaders in Brooklyn, NY, which started using restorative justice two and a half years ago. Their credit accumulation, student attendance and graduation rates have increased, said Principal David O'Hara.

Eighteen-year-old high school student Jhovani Becerra, who helped to bring restorative justice to his school in Denver, CO thinks it has made a positive difference. He told the *Huffington Post*, "I have friends who attend [other schools] and the way they describe their administrators and teachers is different than my high school experience. They describe their school as more pre-prison environment," said Becerra. "I feel safer."

**Mediator** – a person who helps individuals in a conflict to resolve their differences and come to a peaceful agreement

**Zero-tolerance** – a policy in schools that strictly punishes any rule-breaking, regardless of the circumstances

The school-to-prison pipeline is a metaphor for the phenomenon that pushes children of color and low-income students out of school and into the criminal justice system.





## Meet... Jithendra from India

**Name:** Jithendra Sreejith

**Age:** 11

**Lives in:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu in southern India

**Siblings:** One brother

**Languages Spoken:** Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, English

**Favorite Food:** Paneer butter masala

**Favorite Activities:** Drawing, painting, and reading

**Place He Would Most Love to Visit:** New York City

**Favorite School Subject:** Science

**What He Wants to Be When He Grows Up:** A pilot

**Favorite Holiday:** Diwali, a five-day festival celebrating light over darkness



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## India at a Glance

**Official Country Name:** Republic of India

**Population:** 1,251,695,584 people (estimated July 2015 CIA World Factbook)

**Official Languages:** Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Maithili, English, Nepali, Odia, and more

**Religions:** Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism

**Fun Facts:** • India is the second most populated country on Earth.  
• The game of chess was invented in India.  
• Algebra, trigonometry, calculus and the numeric decimal place system were all invented in India.  
• Yoga and martial arts both originated in India.  
• Varanasi, India is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9

# nation&world

## Pope Addresses Climate Change



Pope Francis heads the Roman Catholic Church, which is the largest Christian church in the world with approximately 1.2 billion followers.

By MARIANNE NACANAYNAY, age 13

In a letter to church leaders called *Laudato Si*, released June 18, Pope Francis called climate change a global problem that everyone has a responsibility to help solve. It was the first time the environment was mentioned in this kind of letter, called an encyclical. Francis heads the Roman Catholic Church, which

that poor countries without many resources will be the most impacted by climate change.

Furthermore, *Laudato Si* notes how increased consumption of products is connected to climate change, especially from larger, richer countries. Pope Francis believes rich nations are responsible.

Still, some leaders feel that it's not the pope's place to comment on

is the largest Christian church in the world with approximately 1.2 billion followers.

political or environmental topics. "I don't get economic policy from my bishops or my cardinal or my pope," said Jeb Bush, a conservative Catholic politician.

According to a poll cited in the *Washington Post*, more than 76 percent of Catholics in the United States don't believe that climate change is caused by humans or that it's something to worry about.

Even with opposition, the pope's words are influencing American Catholic schools, which may soon have the pontiff's message in their curriculum.

His words are also resonating in predominantly Catholic countries like the Philippines, a country hard hit by extreme weather believed to be caused by climate change. Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle reiterated the pontiff's words in a letter to Caritas Internationalis, a group of 162 Catholic charities around the world. "Pope Francis reminds us to replace consumption with a sense of sacrifice."

## Same-Sex Marriage Legalized in the United States

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12



June 26, 2015 marked an important day in U.S. history. In a case called *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court ruled five to four that all bans on same-sex marriage must be removed. James Obergefell, the primary plaintiff, said he is a regular person who was denied his rights: "I'm just Jim, I just stood up for our marriage."

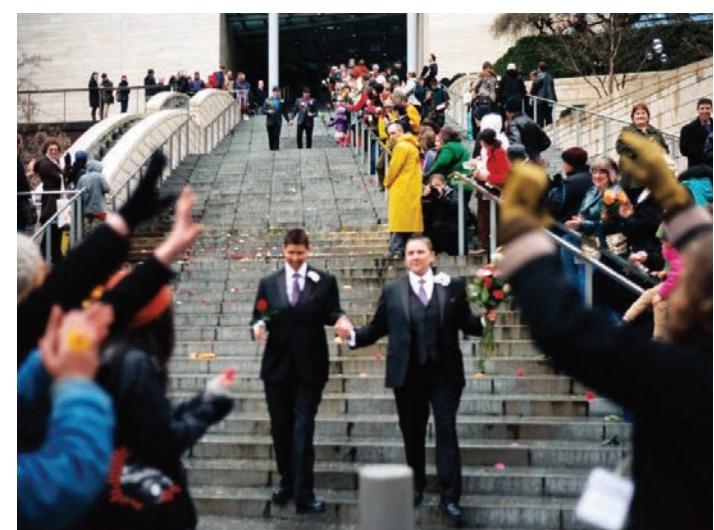
The ruling came after more than 60 years of grassroots activism and several high-profile cases. With this ruling, the United States joins 22 other countries which already protect same-sex marriage rights. President Obama stated, "This decision affirms what millions of Americans already believe in their hearts: When all Americans are treated as equal, we are all more free."

However, the ruling is not a victory in everyone's opinion. Some conservative religious groups believe

that the ruling goes against the tenets of their faiths as laid out in their holy books.

While the ruling is a victory for gay rights, activists believe it does not solve all problems. In 14 states, there is no employment protection for LGBTQ people, so even though they can now get married, they can get fired from their jobs for it.

Greta Gustava Martela, cofounder of a crisis hotline for transgender people called "Trans Lifeline," told the *Daily Beast*: "Transgender women,



Couples nationwide tie the knot following the legalization of same-sex marriage by the Supreme Court.

particularly transgender women of color, are overwhelmingly the people represented by LGBT violence and suicide statistics, and yet we have to struggle for simple representation in the LGBT movement."

## indykids!

**Phone:** (212) 592-0116

**E-mail:** info@indykids.org

**Website:** www.indykids.org

**Mail:** IndyKids

P.O. Box 2281

New York, NY 10163

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### WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

### VOLUNTEERS

**Design:** Mike Newton

**IndyKids Team:** Danielle Archibald, Toi Sin Arvidsson, Sara Behrman, Mike Burke, Todd Eaton, Guerrant, Scott Luxor, Kit Mills, Jyothi Natarajan, Malik Nickens, Isis Phillips, Diana Raimondi, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas, Amanda Vender

**Mentors:** Lizette Aguilar, Victoria Azurin, Victoria Havlicek, Candace Elise Hoes, Alison Nash, Nancy Ryerson, Jonathan Tupas

**Editors:** Danielle Archibald, Panyin Candauh, Candace Elise Hoes, Carly Mento, Laura Grow-Nyberg, Alison Nash, Jyothi Natarajan, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Neil Shibata

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IndyKids, P.O. Box 2281, New York, NY 10163.  
or donate online at [www.IndyKids.org](http://www.IndyKids.org)



# Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- a) New York \_\_\_\_\_
- b) India \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Europe \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Haiti \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Dominican Republic \_\_\_\_\_
- g) South Carolina \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Canada \_\_\_\_\_



## Undocumented Haitians Face Mass Deportation in the Dominican Republic

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 12



**B**y June 17, 2015, undocumented people of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic were forced to register for citizenship in the D.R. or face deportation to Haiti. Hundreds of thousands are predicted to face deportation, according to the *Guardian*, including many children born in the D.R.

Race relations have long been an issue on Hispaniola, the Caribbean island shared by the D.R. and Haiti, from times of slavery to the current day. In 1937, Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo sought to eliminate the darker-skinned Haitians. He ordered the deaths of an estimated 20,000 Haitians in an act of **ethnic cleansing** called the Parsley Massacre.

Critics of current events in the D.R. claim that the mass deportations are another example of ethnic cleansing. In September 2013, the nation decided that people born after 1929 could only be granted citizenship if they had at least one Dominican parent. Since many Dominicans were born under conditions of poverty without access to legal documentation, proving citizenship could be impossible.

This decision has made a huge impact on the Dominican Republic. Families with one Haitian parent



ELMARTO/Flickr

Hundreds of thousands of people of Haitian descent living in the Dominican Republic will be forced to leave their homes, including many children born in the D.R.

fear that they will be separated, while others living there that have Haitian blood but no knowledge of Haiti or the language worry they may be deported. "Imagine if your wife was born here but faces deportation to a country she knows nothing about," a Dominican man named Roberto told the *New York Times*. "She would be taken away, and our marriage and lives would be torn apart."

It has also had a major impact on Haiti. Haitian Prime Minister Evans Paul told the *Guardian* that in one week, 14,000 people had already crossed into Haiti, many of them children and young adults, most without jobs or housing.

"It's time to try and fix everything that needs fixing," said Paul, "to improve relations between both countries."

**Ethnic Cleansing:** the mass removal of a particular ethnic or racial group from a society

## A Step for Women's Rights

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9



In 2020, the U.S. Treasury will print a woman's face on the new \$10 bill.

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said that either a woman would share the \$10 bill with Alexander Hamilton, or two different bills would be released. Senator Hillary Clinton argued that a woman shouldn't have to share it with a man.

Trailblazers Harriet Tubman, Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks and Betty Ford are just a few of the 33 women nominated for the new bill.

However, some oppose putting an African-American woman such as Tubman or Parks on the bill because of our country's ongoing struggle with racial equality. Kirsten West Savali of the Root writes, "That's not progress. It's hush money." Savali argues that placing a black woman on the bill distracts from all the racial tension in the United States.

The American Association of University Women also questioned putting a woman on U.S. currency since women make only 78 percent of what men make and women of color make even less. In this perspective, the change appears hypocritical.

But some feel that putting a woman on the \$10 bill is a good start. "That doesn't mean that putting a woman's face



FRANKIELEON/Flickr

In 2020, the U.S. Treasury will print a woman's face on the new \$10 bill, far right, marking the first appearance of a woman on U.S. paper currency.

on the \$10 bill will suddenly spawn a new generation of female CEOs and technologists," explains Issie Lapowsky in an article written for *Wired* magazine. "But it does mean that the United States is taking a long overdue step toward elevating the lesser told stories of important female leaders, a step that many other countries took long ago."

## newsbriefs



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### Lifting the Ban on Gay Scout Leaders

By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 13



The Boy Scouts of America lifted its ban on gay Scout leaders, trailing the legalization of gay marriage. With the new policy, Scout groups are allowed to choose leaders whose beliefs line up with their own, which still allows for prejudice against gay people within the organization. Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout and executive director of Scouts for Equality, told the *Guardian*, "It is not a victory but it certainly is progress."



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### Confederate Flag Removed from South Carolina's State Capitol

By CHELSEA HALLUMS, age 12



The Confederate flag represented the southern states that tried to separate from the rest of the United States in 1861 to avoid freeing their slaves. In June, Dylann Roof murdered nine black church members at Emanuel AME Church in South Carolina and used the flag as a symbol of his racism. Many since have questioned why the flag still flew above the grounds of the South Carolina state Capitol. Activist Bree Newsome took matters into her own hands and took it down herself, resulting in her arrest. Days later, South Carolina voted to remove the flag, sparking a rally by the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist organization, to keep up the flag. On July 10, the flag was taken down.



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### Canadian Government Charged with Cultural Genocide

By DIARRAH BALLO, age 15



A Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission has found that the government's policy of removing indigenous children from their families and placing them in state-sponsored Christian schools amounted to "cultural genocide." Cultural genocide is the intentional destruction of a particular group's cultural identity. Between 1883 and 1998, 150,000 native students were sent to Christian schools under this policy. The report alleges this policy was put in place to avoid legal and financial obligations and to gain control over indigenous lands and resources.

# the POWER of STUDENT PROTEST

## 1960-1968: Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, was a black youth organization that played a vital role in the Civil Rights Movement. SNCC led teach-ins, sit-ins, [Freedom Rides](#) and voter registration drives and mobilized local black communities across the United States to protest anti-black violence and injustices under Jim Crow.

## 1965-1966: Vietnam Student Teach-ins Changed History

During the Vietnam War, many U.S. citizens protested the war and the practice of drafting young men into the military. One method of protest was student teach-ins, public lectures on subjects of public interest. The first official teach-in was on March 11, 1965 when some of the University of Michigan's faculty discussed ways of peacefully protesting the Vietnam War. After classes ended for the day, students stayed to learn about the war. The first Vietnam teach-in was a huge success, with more than 1,000 students. Professor Bryan Bunyan, who was a student at the University of Michigan during the teach-ins, said, "A whole different picture emerged from what we were getting from the mainstream media and government." At the movement's height, 120 universities across the United States were holding teach-ins. However, the method's popularity fell as quickly as it rose. Students began to complain that teach-ins were too pro-establishment, meaning they cooperated with authorities like the university and the government. Since teach-ins were designed to protest against the government, this was perceived as a problem. By 1966, few teach-ins were being held. Despite its tapering off in the late 1960s, teach-ins are once again becoming relevant forms of peaceful protest in university settings and community forums.

University of Michigan students march in Ann Arbor to protest the Vietnam War in September 1969.

## 1968: East Los Angeles Chicano Student Walkouts

In March of 1968, more than 15,000 high school students across Los Angeles walked out of school during class. Their goals were to get more Latino teachers in their schools and to change textbooks so they included Mexican-American history. [Chicano](#) students were not allowed to speak Spanish in class and were often discouraged from applying to college by guidance counselors and teachers. The dropout rate for Mexican-American students in 1967 was 60 percent. Police and school administrators tried to stop the walkout by blocking school doors and arresting many students who tried to peacefully protest, but that didn't stop them. Reflecting back years later, Moctesuma Esparza, a Chicano student organizer in the '60s, told *Democracy Now!* "I remember people being clubbed down to the floor [by the police] because they wanted an education. The next day, we walked out again. We walked out again the next day after that. We didn't stop for two weeks." On March 11, 1968, the students had a chance to list their 39 demands before the Los Angeles Board of Education. Although there was not enough funding to fulfill everything the students requested, the board agreed to most of their demands.

In 1968, Chicano students in Los Angeles peacefully protested to demand adequate education and an end to the racism that they encountered in textbooks, teachers, academic advisors and administrators.

## Glossary of Terms

**Chicano:** Chicano or Chicana is an identity that many Mexican-Americans select for themselves

**Freedom Rides:** the Freedom Rides were a nonviolent method of protesting the segregation of interstate bus terminals in the 1960s. Freedom riders integrated segregated buses and used "whites only" facilities like lunch counters and restrooms

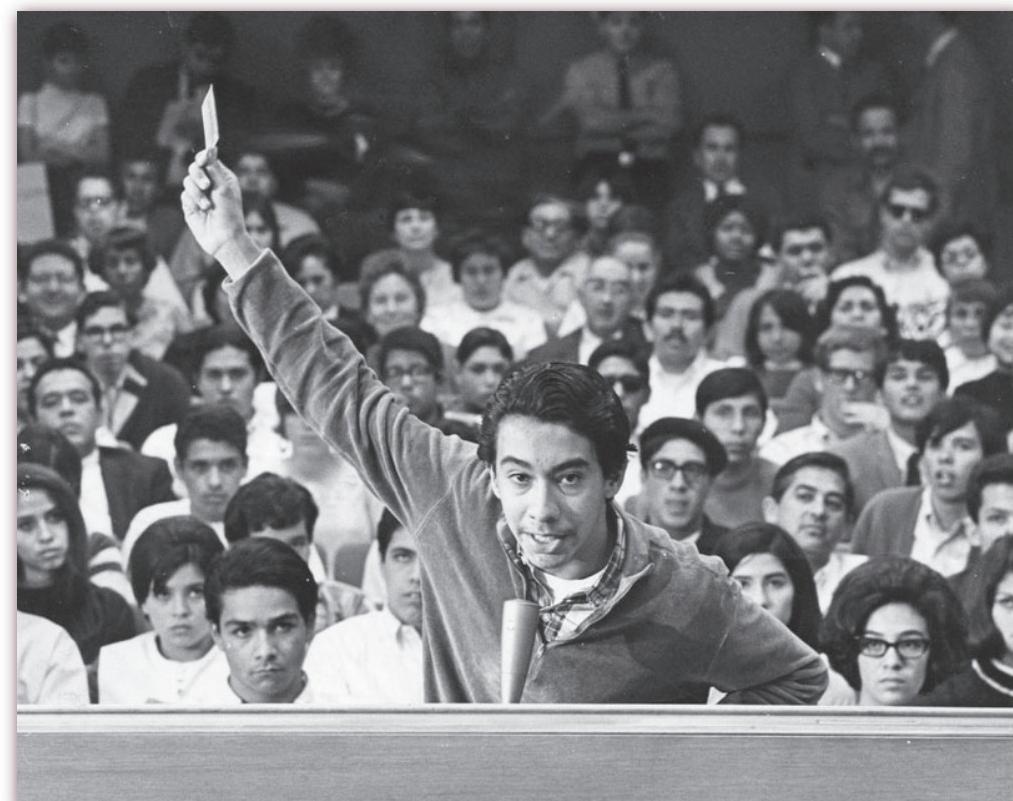
By YUUKI REAL, age 15, SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 13, and AMIA MCDONALD, age 11  
Introduction by DANIELLE ARCHIBALD, IndyKids Staff



When people protest, they are expressing that they can no longer accept the way things are, often suggesting alternatives and solutions to make things better. A protest can take any shape or form, from marches, sit-ins or teach-ins to poetry, art or theater. Anyone can protest! When students and young people have organized and demanded change, the outcomes have been tremendous. The voices of youth have had a special role in creating positive changes in revolutionary movements from the 20th century through today.



WYSTAN/Flickr



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 1985-1994: Anti-Apartheid Student Protests

Student activists pressured universities and corporations to divest money from apartheid South Africa. This helped shift the U.S. government to an anti-apartheid position which spread internationally and contributed to the successful lifting of apartheid in South Africa.

## 2012-Present: Black Youth Matter

After the murders of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Tanisha Anderson, Freddie Gray and more who were unarmed and black, many youth thought it was important to take a stand against anti-black violence. A black liberation movement called #BlackLivesMatter was co-founded in 2012 by three black female activists, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, to unite black people to take a stand against injustices that attack and undermine the value of black lives. After the non-indictment of Darren Wilson, the officer responsible for Michael Brown's death, more than 1,000 students walked out of class at Garfield High School in Seattle, WA. Through the #BlackLivesMatter movement, African-American youth have also protested racist policies, inadequate funding and unequal conditions in schools attended by black children. Jamal Jones, a teenager in Baltimore, organized a school board meeting takeover, demanding better conditions for schools in black communities. As Jones stated, "The same machine that allows for schools to close, allows for funding disparities in communities of color, is the same machine that allowed Mike Brown, Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner to be killed. This machine is not for us, so we are organizing to get the power back to the black community."

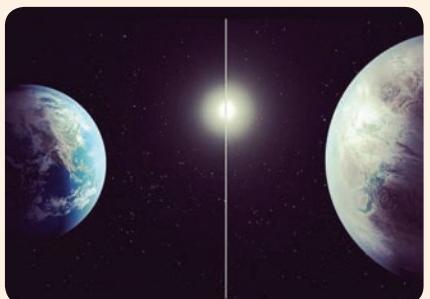
African-American student activists host a teach-in on anti-black violence at the University of Washington in January 2015.

## 2014-Present: Student Debt Strikes

More than 100 students organized to refuse repayment of loans for an education that they felt did not live up to its promise. An offspring of the Occupy movement helped the students by buying and forgiving \$4 million of their student loan debt. The student debt strikes have drawn mainstream attention to the issue.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON/Flickr



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## Discovery of Earth-Like Planet Outside of Solar System

By SADIE PRICE ELLIOTT, age 13



A recent planetary discovery brings hope of life on another world. NASA scientists have researched a planet called Kepler 452b that is the planet most like Earth ever recorded, but bigger and older. It's the first earth-like planet found within the "Goldilocks Zone," where the conditions have to be just right in order for life to form. The finding of Kepler 452b could further our search for life on worlds outside our own.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/Flickr

## California Drought Causes Devastating Wildfires

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 12



Spurred on by a historic drought, wildfires have consumed more than 134,000 acres of land in California this year. That's almost triple the state's average of 48,153 acres in five years. The drought has "turned much of the state into a tinderbox," said Governor Jerry Brown. The Rocky Fire, the largest fire which stretched across three counties, engulfed 60,000 acres in six days. The two dozen separate fires have caused thousands of people to evacuate threatened areas as a result.



NASA

## New Discovery Links Indigenous Peoples

By AMIA McDONALD, age 11



Recent genetic studies have found that Native Americans near the Amazon are related to the Aborigines in Australia. Prior genetic research had only shown the relationship between indigenous peoples from South America and those who crossed the land bridge Beringia approximately 15,000 years ago. There was similarity in their skeletal makeup as well as their genome. After careful analysis, genetics prove that indigenous groups in Australia, New Guinea and the Andaman Islands are the relatives of the Xavante, Surui and Karitiana people from the Amazon.

134,000

Spurred on by a historic drought, wildfires have consumed more than 134,000 acres of land in California this year. Source: Newsweek

# culture & activism

## Juan Felipe Herrera Becomes First Latino Poet Laureate

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 11



This June, Juan Felipe Herrera was appointed the first Chicano U.S. poet laureate by the Library of Congress. Poets laureate encourage Americans to read and write poetry, and invite them to appreciate its value. Former laureates include Rita Dove, the first African-American laureate, and Gwendolyn Brooks, the first black Pulitzer Prize winner.

Born in 1948 to a family of Mexican migrant workers, Herrera had an early interest in poetry. His mother "used to recite poems kind of spontaneously," Herrera told *National Public Radio*. "Something would move her, and then she would just break into a poem she remembered from her childhood." His poetry addresses his cultural heritage and life in California. In his poem "Half-Mexican," he talks about the two different sides of his identity. The poem "comes out of not being this or being that," but living in "the very creative space that's in between," he explained to the *New York Times*. One of Herrera's most noted books is *Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*, published in 2008. He has also written young adult novels, children's books and short stories.

Herrera has taught poetry in prisons and



STEVE RHODES

"When we speak poetically, or write a poem about what's going on, a real difficult issue that's facing our communities, people listen," Herrera told the *Guardian*.

created the I Promise Joanna / Yo te Prometo Joanna anti-bullying project. He now plans on using the resources of the Library of Congress to reach out to young poets from diverse communities. "Poetry is one of the largest, most beautiful, most intimate and most effective ways of participating," Herrera told the *Guardian*. "When we speak poetically, or write a poem about what's going on, a real difficult issue that's facing our communities, people listen."

## New York Public Library Faces Closures and Funding Cuts

By NYLU AVERY BERNSHAYN, age 10



In 2015, budgets for the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library and the Queens Public Library were cut. In response, New Yorkers – including students, librarians, and authors, such as Judy Blume and Junot Díaz – launched a grassroots campaign called Invest in Libraries to raise awareness of the cuts.

Public libraries are essential for many individuals, especially those living in poverty and/or recently arrived immigrants. People of all ages and backgrounds can access Wi-Fi and computers, take classes ranging from computer basics to understanding immigrant employment rights, and enjoy various exhibitions and programming, all for free. Darin Brenchley, an avid public library patron, says, "At the Science, Business and Industry Library, for example, I can access rare books on architecture, literature, cartography and science with my library card. I do not have to be a wealthy collector; I just need my NYPL card."

New Yorkers spoke out against the cuts with rallies, petitions, testimonials from popular authors and a 24-hour "read-in" of *Fahrenheit 451* at City Hall. City leaders listened. On June 22, 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council announced their budget agree-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ment, which allocated an extra \$43 million for the city's libraries. The *Library Journal* reports that the additional funding will allow for a restoration of six-day service at all library branches, and will create 500 jobs.

Though this is a historic win, the long-neglected New York City public library system is in such disrepair that it will take a long time before libraries across all five boroughs are renovated and repaired.

# Meet IndyKids Reporter, Sadie Price-Elliott



By JUSTIN LAMPORT, age 11



**S**adie Price-Elliott, age 13, has been reporting for *IndyKids* since January 2014.

**Justin Lamport: What motivated you to start writing for *IndyKids*?**

**Sadie Price-Elliott:** I was motivated to write for *IndyKids* by my teachers at school, who showed me the paper in class one day. When I saw the paper I was amazed by the depth that kid reporters put into their stories. I loved that it covered real issues that affect all of us. I wanted to try something new and I wanted to meet new people who liked to write.

**What is your favorite article that you have written for *IndyKids*? Why?**

My favorite article I wrote was probably "Cyclists Building Peace" because my life relates deeply to the topic. I'm very involved in cycling and my family bike tours on tandems. I got to interview a few cyclists face to face, which was pretty cool.

**What are some of your interests? Why?**

Some of my interests are making movies with friends and taking pictures everywhere I go. I like taking pictures and videos because it gives me something to look back on.

**Do you have any advice for aspiring young writers?**

I think it would be to just write. One thing I have been doing since the beginning of 2014 is each day I write something down in a journal. There are days that I don't feel like writing or I don't know what to write, but I do it anyway. It helps get those creative juices flowing.

## Someday, you could be a Scholar Activist, like Aiesha Turman

By JUSTIN LAMPORT, age 11



**A**re you passionate about promoting healing and knowledge within your ethnic community? Or, are you interested in supporting a community as an ally? Scholar and activist Aiesha Turman founded a non-profit called the Black Girl Project to facilitate healing in African-American women and girls from cultural trauma.

**Justin Lamport: What is the focus of your scholarship and activism?**

**Aiesha Turman:** The focus of my scholarship and activism is the role of the arts in helping to mitigate cultural trauma and historical grief among African Americans, particularly women and girls. Cultural trauma is when something happens to a group of people from the same or similar cultural background and it has negative effects. Historical grief is the psychological and emotional aspect of cultural

trauma. In my case, the cultural trauma I am interested in is the system of American slavery.

**What is the Black Girl Project? Why did you start it and what do you hope it achieves?**

The Black Girl Project is a small non-profit that I founded that bridges my scholarship and activism. It began as a documentary film where young women of African descent talked about their lives. I was inspired to make the film because we don't see a lot of diversity in the media when it comes to African-American women and girls. They are usually stereotyped and I wanted to show a different side.

**What advice do you have for kids interested in creating similar projects?**



AIESHA TURMAN

Just do it! If you have an idea, write it down, plan it out and get to work. Everything that has ever existed began as an idea, and if you have an idea, it's up to you to make it real!

## European Migrants: The Humanitarian Crisis

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12



**M**y family lives and works in Europe every summer. This year, the major issue discussed in European news was the huge increase in migration to and within Europe.

Migrants come to Europe from many different realities and experiences. There are those who come from another European country or from countries where they have rights to work in European countries, those who are refugees fleeing from war and conflict or who are leaving countries with droughts and high unemployment, and there are undocumented migrants. Often, these groups overlap.

Last year more than 3,000 refugees and undocumented migrants died trying to get into Europe, and this year already more than 1,800 have died. In the past two years 150,000 new refugees and undocumented

migrants have arrived in Europe. The influx is so big that European countries, which are also fighting high unemployment and the European debt crisis, are struggling to find ways to provide for the migrants.

Of course, no one wants people to die trying to immigrate to another country, and the crisis is huge and not easily solved. In order to slow the flow of migrants into Europe, conditions in migrants' home countries have to improve, and since these cover everything from climate change to political situations, worldwide assistance will be needed. Europe is already more densely populated than the United States, and some of the migrants are fleeing wars in which the United States has participated, so I think that maybe the United States should also take some responsibility and help to solve the humanitarian migrant crisis in Europe.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

This Syrian family travels by boat to Europe in hopes of a safer life.

# GETTING WILD WITH THE OLIVE BABOON



Olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) are about 20 to 40 inches in length and can weigh up to 82 pounds. This type of monkey has a snout-like mouth and long tail. They also have yellow-brown fur with bare face, hands, feet and buttocks. Olive baboons live primarily in the tropical habitats of African countries and usually seek shelter in cliff sides or in tall trees where there is food and water nearby. Baboons are **omnivores**, eating plants and berries, but also insects and even small antelopes.

Agricultural expansion and human settlements have led to major habitat loss for baboons, according to the African Wildlife Foundation. To adapt, they raid crops, which then causes farmers to view them as pests and hunt them down. Since they are one of the least likely species in Africa predicted to become extinct, baboons are listed as a "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), however, they are still in danger of being hunted. Many of Africa's national reserves protect baboons to ensure they stay off the extinct species list.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In some cultures “baboon” means “ugly man.”
  - We humans share 91 percent DNA with baboons.
  - Scientists have found they have the same tendency toward competition and aggression as humans.
  - The buttocks of baboons are hairless and padded

- There are five types of baboons: the Olive Baboon, Guinea Baboon, Chacma Baboon, Yellow Baboon to make it more comfortable for them to sit for long periods of time.

**Omnivore** – an organism that eats both plants and other animals

# WORD SEARCH

Find key words from the September/October 2015 *Inquiry Kids* issue!

FREEDOM RIDES  
ZERO TOLERANCE  
CHICANO  
MEDIATOR  
INDIA  
ENCYCLICAL  
ETHNIC  
CLEANSING  
INDIGENOUS  
OLIVE BABOON  
CONFEDERATE  
FLAG  
POET LAUREATE

We Can Make a Change

By DAPHNE OKUYAMA, age 11

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# WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE: ORIGINAL POEM AND DRAWING BY CAMERON HEDGSPETH



By CAMERON  
HEDGESPETH,  
age 12

-Guenther